

Spring 2010

Irish PARTNERSHIPS CENTER

"A Shared Heritage... A Shared Future"

Co-Directors: Professor Ann Marie Hurley • Dr. Stephen McCarthy • Dr. Frank Talty

UMass Lowell and Queen's University Belfast Sign Collaboration Agreement

In March 2009, Chancellor Marty Meehan of University of Massachusetts Lowell signed a Collaboration Agreement with Vice Chancellor Peter Gregson of Queen's University Belfast (Queen's) at the Queen's campus in Belfast.

Queen's is a research-driven university with a dynamic world class research and education portfolio and strong international connections. Areas of research excellence range from conflict resolution and peace studies to drug design.



(Seated L to R) Vice Chancellor Peter Gregson, Queen's, and Chancellor Marty Meehan, UMass Lowell, sign the institutional collaboration agreement. (Standing) Dr. Stephen McCarthy (Co-Director), Dr. Susan Brauhut, Provost Ahmed Abdelal, Pro-Vice Chancellor Gerry McCormack (Queen's), Dr. Frank Talty (Co-Director)

Our Mission

"To work with Irish partners to create a dynamic model for Cross-Atlantic collaboration that will promote and advance UMass Lowell's goals to enhance the student experience by providing a global perspective to teaching and research, while contributing to Irish interests through exchange and service."

Education Partnership Bridges Lowell, Belfast, Haifa for Project on Reflective Practice for Equity and Excellence

The UMass Lowell Graduate School of Education is partnering with St. Mary's University in Belfast, Ireland and University of Haifa, Israel to study the effect of reflective practice on social equity and academic excellence in school settings.

This summer several faculty members from each institution will meet in Lowell to examine patterns of privilege and marginalization in the educational system of their regions, learn about reflective practices, and develop context sensitive action plans for their schools.

Partnership with Queen's University Yields Study Abroad Opportunities

Summer 2010

UMass Lowell students can spend three weeks at The International Summer School at Queen's University Belfast. Students will study Irish history, politics, literature, music and culture. They will tour historic sites, visit the Parliament, and the North coast of the island. Upon completion of the course, they will receive three UMass Lowell credits.

Fall 2010

UMass Lowell students can study at Queen's University Belfast for the Fall term. They will learn Irish politics, history, sociology and anthropology with some of the top Professors in Ireland. They may also participate in a community internship.

Spring 2011

Located on the historic Falls Road, West Belfast's St. Mary's University (affiliated with Queen's) offers a unique academic experience. Students will study Irish history, politics and culture. They will also intern in the West Belfast community and explore first-hand the process of conflict resolution.

"UMass Lowell is committed to an enhanced relationship with our Irish partners in the sciences and engineering, and also in advancing our understanding of the social and cultural dimension of our people. In a very short time, we have seen tremendous excitement and substantive program development in this new relationship."

—Dr. Frank Talty,
Co-Director

Emerging Technologies Conference Joins UMass Lowell, Irish Universities

UMass Lowell in partnership with Queen's University of Belfast and Dublin City University, hosted the first U.S./Ireland Emerging Technologies Conference in October.

The international conference featured experts from the three universities presenting on new research in biopharmaceuticals, medical devices, nanomanufacturing and nano/biosensors. All sessions were held at the UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center in downtown Lowell.

Robert Tamarin, dean of the Division of Sciences in the College of Arts and Sciences, who opened the conference, says the event was beneficial on several levels.

"The conference offered UMass Lowell and Irish scientists the opportunity to get together with leading industry partners as they consider the application of new technologies to meet medical and scientific needs," said Tamarin. "Also, it reflects our growing commitment to international partnerships, which add to the vibrant exchange of ideas."

Each of the three universities has major research centers that bring together resources and knowledge from the public and private sectors, including Dublin City University's Biomedical Diagnostics Institute, Queen's University's Polymers Research Center and UMass Lowell's Massachusetts BioManufacturing Center, NSF Center for Highrate Nanomanufacturing and Massachusetts Medical Device Development Center (M2D2). Those centers, along with Ireland's Center for BioAnalytical Sciences, were represented at the conference. Expert presenters also included faculty from UMass Medical School and Northeastern University.

Nearly 200 people participated in the conference, with about 100 present for each of the four sessions.

Scientific poster sessions of new research were held simultaneously. Representatives of leading companies exhibited products and services, making the link to how new technologies are being used in real-world manufacturing and product development.

Corporate sponsors of the event were Millipore Corp., Nypro Healthcare, PTC and Tesco Associates.



Members of the delegation from Queen's University at the Emerging Technologies Conference. (L to R) Stephen McCarthy (UML), Fraser Buchanan, Tony McNally, Eileen Harkin-Jones, Peter Hornsby, Marion McAfee, Nicholas Dunne, Frank Talty (UML)



Members of the delegation from Dublin City University at the Emerging Technologies Conference. (L to R) Stephen McCarthy (UML), Jens Ducree, Brian MacCraith, Ciaran Fagan, Richard O'Kennedy, Frank Talty (UML), Victoria Drakoulakos (UML)

Social Archaeological Digs to Occur in Ireland and Lowell

Plans are under way for a four-week program in which students will unearth elements of the Great Irish Famine and resulting wave of emigration through archeological digs in Ireland and Lowell.

Thanks to a partnership between UMass Lowell and Queen's University in Northern Ireland, which was formalized during a recent visit by Chancellor Marty Meehan and a UMass Lowell delegation, students will participate in site surveying, excavation and cataloging to uncover clues about life during the Irish Famine. They will spend two weeks at an abandoned rural settlement in Legnabrochy, Cuilcagh Mountain, in County Fermanagh, Ireland, then two weeks in Lowell around St. Patrick's church, the site of post-famine Irish settlements.

Queens University Archeology Prof. Colm Donnelly and Pro-Vice-Chancellor Gerry McCormac visited Lowell to meet with Chancellor Meehan and Provost Ahmed Abdelal and to visit potential local dig sites.

Dr. Frank Talty, director of academic programs in the Division of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, coordinated the Lowell site preparations and visits, including a tour of St. Patrick's Church, where archivist David McKean conducted tours of the early Irish gravesites.

(L to R) Gerry McCormac, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Queen's University Belfast, David McKean, Archivist at St. Patrick's Church, and Colm Donnelly, Chair, School of Archaeology at Queen's stand in front of St. Patrick's Church, the site of future digs on the post-famine Irish experience.



(L to R) Dr. Frank Talty, Chancellor Marty Meehan, Vice-Chancellor Jacqueline Maloney, President Jack Wilson, Pro-Vice Chancellor Gerry McCormac (Queen's), Provost Ahmed Abdelal, Dr. Colm Donnelly (Queen's)

"Our partnerships with the Irish Universities are synergistic by design, resulting in an increase in student education, faculty collaboration, partner company enhancement, and regional economic development."

—Dr. Stephen McCarthy,
Co-Director

"Ireland is committed to developing its knowledge-based economy. Therefore the Irish universities are keen to expand international collaborations to further enhance teaching and research. This complements UMass Lowell's goal to expand its international links. In addition, being associated with educational institutions in an European Union member state will open up many opportunities for UMass Lowell faculty and students in other EU states."

—Professor Ann Marie Hurley,
Co-Director

The Center for Irish Partnerships Co-Directors

Ann Marie Hurley is a professor in the Department of Mathematical Sciences at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. Her expertise includes statistics and bioinformatics.



Professor Ann Marie Hurley



Dr. Stephen P. McCarthy is a professor and the M.S. Coordinator for the Department of Plastics Engineering at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. His interests focus on Biodegradable polymers, mechanical behavior of polymers, applications of CAD/CAM, process simulation and medical devices. He also serves as the Co-Director of the Massachusetts Medical Device Development Center (M2D2).

Dr. Frank Talty is the director of the Academic Programs in the College of Arts and Science at University of Massachusetts Lowell. His expertise focuses on American Courts, American Public Administration and Public Policy.



Dr. Frank Talty

Peace and Conflict Studies BA/MA

A **faculty committee**, appointed by Nina Coppens, Interim Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, will oversee the development of a Peace and Conflict Studies degree program at UMass Lowell. The committee will develop the core curriculum and listing of electives, identify preexisting courses such as those that were part of the Peace Studies Certificate Program, and establish the requirements for both the bachelors and masters degrees. The Peace and Conflict Studies degree program is scheduled to launch during the Spring 2011 term.

To provide the most comprehensive education in Peace and Conflict Studies, UMass Lowell will partner with international universities which have similar programs. Queen's University has a Center for the Study of Ethnic Conflict which promotes research on societies that are or have been deeply divided in terms of their ethnic and national identities. The city of Belfast provides an especially appropriate setting for the study of the problems that a deep division in society gives rise to. Dublin City University offers a masters degree in International Security and Conflict Studies.

New Course in Irish Politics

Dr. Frank Talty, director of the Academic Programs in the College of Arts and Science and Co-Director of the Center for Irish Partnerships, is offering a new course in Irish politics during the Spring 2010 term. For students of politics, Ireland is perhaps one of the most fascinating examples of a territory that has undergone, and continues to undergo dramatic transformations in its governing structures, its passionate struggles for freedom, civil wars, colonial resistance and modern nationalism.

Dr. Talty's class will study the political history of Ireland before and during its time as a part of the United Kingdom, through the partition of the island into two states, and up to the modern politics of both the Republic of Ireland and the British state of Northern Ireland.

